

The 10th Annual
**Regional Economic Forecast for
Southern California 2007-2008**

**SPEAKER
PROFILES**

The Middle Class on Life Support:
Strategies for Revitalizing Southern California's Economy

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Friday, March 9, 2007

SPEAKER PROFILES



Hon. Gary C. Ovitt
First Vice President, SCAG
Fourth District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino, California

Elected to serve the constituents of the Fourth Supervisorial District, Supervisor Gary Ovitt continues his public service to the community he has lived in his entire life. Having served as a schoolteacher, Councilman and Mayor, Supervisor Ovitt will exercise his personal faith and strong conviction to better his community by bringing the fair share of tax dollars to help improve the infrastructure and way of life for the residents of the 4th District. Supervisor Ovitt currently serves as First Vice President of the Southern California Association of Governments.

As a teacher at Chaffey High School in Ontario for over 35 years, Supervisor Ovitt taught Government, History and Work Experience. Supervisor Ovitt has coached several sports and served as a one-on-one mentor to numerous students. In 1992, Supervisor Ovitt retired from coaching to assume his elected position to the Ontario City Council. Supervisor Ovitt served as Councilman until his election as Mayor to the City in 1998, where he served until his election to the Board of Supervisors in 2004. During his term as Supervisor, Gary Ovitt has been responsible for passing an initiative to post information on registered sex-offenders in San Bernardino County on a county Internet site. This site allows parents in the community to better safeguard their children and families from sexual predators. Supervisor Ovitt was instrumental in leading the Board of Supervisors to lease additional prison facilities in the City of Adelanto to help alleviate overcrowded jails and prevent the release of offenders back into our neighborhoods.

Supervisor Ovitt has furthered his war on gang-related crime by supporting the increase in police officers and anti-gang law enforcement units. His commitment to keep our neighborhoods and schools safe is exemplified in his victory to utilize GPS technology in the 4th District. This technology will help law enforcement track probationary offenders and sexual predators by monitoring their whereabouts through the use of anklets, that will alert the authorities if the offender has strayed outside of acceptable geographic boundaries as outlined by the courts. This application will further be used to alert women who are victims of domestic violence to the whereabouts of their offenders.

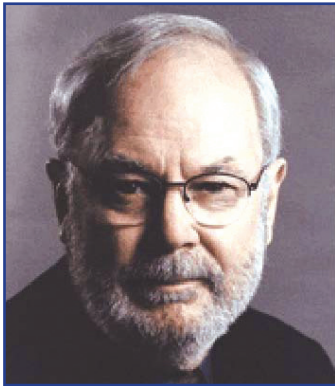


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John Husing, Ph.D.
Economics & Politics, Inc.

In August 2006, Dr. John Husing was listed by the L.A. Times Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful people shaping life in Southern California. He is a leading authority on the impact of the goods movement industry on the region, and in particular its role as a provider of upward economic mobility to blue collar workers. In addition, he has spent decades studying the city & county economies of Southern California with a specialty on the Inland Empire. This research began when he started working on his doctoral thesis at Claremont Graduate University in 1964. For the past 42 years, Dr. Husing has conducted extensive research plus interviews with executives and entrepreneurs to understand the forces shaping Southern California. He has a deep understanding of our political process, having managed over 100 partisan and non-partisan campaigns. Today, he uses his extensive knowledge of the region and his political experience to explain the economy to business leaders and policy makers throughout the Southland.

As a result, Dr. Husing's firm, Economics & Politics, Inc. is a major source of information for public and private entities trying to understand the future economic potential of Southern California and the logistics industry. His forecasts and information are detailed in the Inland Empire Quarterly Economic Report which he has written for 19 years. Dr. Husing is also a featured columnist for the Inland Empire's The Business Press.

Privately, Dr. Husing enjoys life as an adventurer, taking treks into uncharted territories as well as traveling to 52 different countries. In recent years, he has twice entered the unexplored jungles of NW New Guinea to make first contact with previously undiscovered stone-aged tribes. His last trip was trekking over the Himalayas from Nepal into Tibet. Closer to home, Dr. Husing is an amateur genealogist with his American roots traced back 12 generations to Robert Fuller and his family on the Mayflower.



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Hon. Senator Tom Torlakson
*Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus
California's 7th Senate District*

Senator Tom Torlakson represents California's 7th Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County. Torlakson serves as Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, whose members are committed to taking bold action to protect the lives - and well-being - of real people, and to preserve those qualities that have made California a special place to live. Because of his concerns about education funding and other issues involving our state's schools, Torlakson sought appointments this year to the Senate's Education and Budget and Fiscal Review Committees. He authored SCA 12, a proposed constitutional amendment that would significantly strengthen the protections for K-14 education funding outlined in Proposition 98.

Torlakson served as the Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee from 2000-2004, and he is the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Infrastructure. He previously was Chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. He was the author of legislation that became Proposition 1A, a measure to protect local government revenues. Torlakson also worked to ensure the successful passage of a package of 2004 bills that increased drunken-driving prevention, treatment, and education. Numerous organizations including the California Park and Recreation Association, the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions, the California Redevelopment Association, California Transit Association, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission have named Torlakson their "Legislator of the Year."

Torlakson's career in public service began as a science teacher in 1972. After building a strong reputation as an effective community leader, he was elected to the Antioch City Council in 1978. He was elected to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors in 1980, holding that office for 16 years (four terms). He was elected to represent California's 11th Assembly District in 1996, earning reelection in 1998. He was elected to the State Senate in 2000 and was reelected without opposition in 2004. Torlakson was born in San Francisco in 1949. He served in the Merchant Marine during the Vietnam War. He earned a B.A. in History in 1971, a Life Secondary Teaching Credential, and an M.A. in Education in 1977 from UC-Berkeley. He lives in Antioch with his wife of 33 years, Diana. They have two daughters: Tamara, who attends UC-Santa Cruz, and Tiffany, who is a UC-Berkeley graduate.



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Anil Puri, Ph.D.
*College of Business and Economics
California State University, Fullerton*

Dr. Anil Puri is the Dean of the College of Business and Economics at California State University, Fullerton, and Co-Director of its Institute for Economic and Environmental Studies. Prior to becoming dean in 1998 of the largest business school in California and third largest in the nation, Dr. Puri was department chair and professor of economics at Cal State Fullerton. He is a noted economist and scholar whose economic forecasting is highly esteemed by business and government entities, and whose expertise is sought on a regular basis.

Dr. Puri also serves as the executive vice president of the Western Economic Association International, the second largest professional association of economists in the nation. He is a member of the American Economic Association, the National Association of Business Economists, and the Association of University Bureaus of Economic Research.

Dr. Puri received his doctorate and master's degrees in economics from the University of Minnesota. His research has been published in leading academic journals such as the National Tax Journal, Policy Studies Journal, Journal of Conflict Resolution and the International Journal of Forecasting.

Dr. Puri's annual Economic Forecast Conference, now in its thirteenth year, is held each October in partnership with the Orange County Business Council, and is one of the most popular and respected events in Orange County. As a result of his "on-target" forecasting, he is consistently quoted by the local and national news media, including radio, television and the press.



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Mark A. Pisano

Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Mark Pisano directs the activities of the Southern California Association of Governments, the nation's largest regional planning agency. The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura, and cities within these counties, are members of the Association. The purpose of this voluntary association of local governments is to provide an open forum where region-wide issues can be explored and comprehensive plans dealing with air and water quality, transportation, regional growth and development, housing, and other areas critical to the region can be developed.

Prior to joining SCAG in November 1976, Mr. Pisano was director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Planning Division. For several years, Pisano was responsible for developing policy on implementation of the nation's water quality management process, including basin and facility planning and wastewater management programs. He previously served as an economist with the Environmental Protection Agency. A Ph.D. candidate at Georgetown University, Pisano was a lecturer there during the summers of 1970 and 1971. He is also the author of numerous papers, speeches, and articles on subjects such as economics, growth, transportation, water quality, and governance.



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ROBERT A. WOLF

*Nationally Recognized Expert in Public and
Private Real Estate Transactions*

Robert Wolf is a principal in many firms active in the financing, development, building and sales of real estate both domestically and internationally, with banking and venture relationships in Western Europe and Japan.

Mr. Wolf's formal education endeavors beyond a B.B.A. degree have been concentrated in the field of development. Areas of study and successful completion include real estate law and development, financing, marketing, syndication, business law, group investment techniques and construction techniques. Mr. Wolf has developed international financing, joint ventures and marketing programs and has been most successful in these areas. Mr. Wolf has worked in all facets of development including superintendent, project manager, project engineer, sales manager, and broker before becoming the chief executive officer. This background allows Mr. Wolf to draw upon his experience when making any decision regarding a development or investment object and to bring "hands-on" experience to the approval processes at the city, county, state and federal levels.

Mr. Wolf is a recognized expert in the field of real estate development, infrastructure and financing and is a nationally known and sought after speaker on these topics. Mr. Wolf's expertise led to his previous appointments as Vice Chairman of the City of Moreno Valley's Planning Commission, the County of Riverside Flood Control Commission for Zone Four, and Planning Commissioner for Riverside County. He has recently served as Undersecretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for California, and has served as Chairman of the California Transportation Commission.

Mr. Wolf is the author of [How to Become a Developer](#), a step-by-step description of the development process and the people involved, written for those who wish to enter the profession. Published by Crittenden Books, the book received excellent reviews in such publications as the Los Angeles Times.

Robert and his family reside in Moreno Valley, California, where they are active and respected members of the community.



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Larry J. Kosmont, CRE
President and CEO
Kosmont Companies

Mr. Larry J. Kosmont, CRE, is the President and CEO of Kosmont Companies, which he founded in 1986. He is Managing Partner of Renaissance Community Fund, which invests and develops mixed use, residential and commercial projects throughout California. Mr. Kosmont's 32-year career encompasses negotiations, development, and management of real estate transactions exceeding \$10 billion. He has an extensive track record as a public/private real estate advisor and developer, with expertise in creating and managing real estate transactions through phases of entitlement approvals, negotiation, financing, and project implementation.

Mr. Kosmont has assisted hundreds of local government agencies in land development policy decisions ranging from large-scale economic development to site-specific real estate strategies and projects. He has guided over 1,000 private sector projects in obtaining public approvals, structuring deal terms, and securing public/private financing.

From 1975 to 1986, Mr. Kosmont served in the roles of City Manager, Director of Community Development, and Redevelopment Director in the cities of Santa Monica, Seal Beach, Bell Gardens and Burbank. He served as President of the City Managers Association in Southeast Los Angeles County for two consecutive years.

In 1995, Mr. Kosmont conceived of and created the Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey®, which is now recognized as the industry standard for comparing city taxes and economic incentives. The Survey covers 368 cities in all 50 states, and is published annually by Claremont-McKenna College.

In 1996, Mr. Kosmont was named Service Professional of the Year in the Los Angeles Business Journal, "Who's Who of Commercial Real Estate."

Mr. Kosmont serves as a State Commissioner on the California State Economic Development Commission, and as a Los Angeles City Commissioner, serving on the Industrial Development Authority. He also serves as a board member of various state and local economic development organizations.



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Dr. Donald F. Averill

Chancellor, San Bernardino Community College District

Dr. Donald F. Averill is the Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District. The District has two community colleges, San Bernardino Valley College in San Bernardino and Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa. The District owns and operates KVCR public television and radio. The District opened the Professional Development Center in 2001 that provides training and assistance to businesses and incumbent workers.

After starting his career in secondary education in 1960, Dr. Averill moved to the community colleges in 1977 serving as the Vice Chancellor for Educational Services for the Coast Community College District and the Administrative Dean, Human Resources and Technology at Glendale Community College District. In July of 1996, Dr. Averill became Superintendent/President of Palo Verde College and in July of 2000 he was appointed as Chancellor in the San Bernardino Community College District.

The San Bernardino CCD has experienced improvement in the last six years in economic development, increasing transfer rates to higher education, and increasing the number of students transferring from high schools to higher education. Dr. Averill serves on the Executive Committee of the Alliance for Education and the P-16 Educational Trust that is linking all the stakeholders in the County to work on common goals for improving the K-12 educational delivery system.

Dr. Averill serves on the Boards of Catholic Charities, Arrowhead United Way, (President-elect) Inland Action Inc., San Bernardino Kiwanis Club, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce (President-elect). He is also active at the state level on the Economic Development Network of the California Community Colleges, the National Workforce Development Committee and an oversight committee with the Department of Defense to address linkages with higher education, and the legislative chair of the Inland Valleys' Trustees and CEO Association.

Dr. Averill resides in Yucaipa with his wife Carol. They have three children; Maggie a teacher, Kathleen a Commodities Broker for Conoco Phillips, and Donald James, owner of Ultimate Electronics that performs low voltage system installations. Carol and Don have four grandsons, all boys.



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Michelle Johnson
Executive Vice President
KB Home Inland Valley Division

Michelle Johnson works directly with the Inland Valley division president to support the company's goals and vision as well as manage and implement innovative departmental programs in sales, marketing, daily units processing, and customer service. Ms. Johnson has 17 years of real estate-related experience in sales and marketing management and delivers outstanding results for long- and short-term company objectives. Ms. Johnson develops and oversees division training programs as well as a team of customer service professionals, and leads the division delivering the highest quality of customer service to KB home buyers and earning the coveted NAHB (NHQ) National Housing Quality Certified Builder award. With 11 years at KB Home under her belt, Ms. Johnson has developed a teamwork philosophy integrating all departments into a productive culture.



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Wally Knox
Founder and Director
Institute for the Middle Class

Wally Knox is the founder and Director of the Institute for the Middle Class, the only national research institute entirely devoted to restoring the vitality of the American middle class. His interest and commitment to middle class income issues began early. From the late 1970s to the 1990s, he was an attorney specializing in the representation of labor unions. In 1994, he was elected to the California State Assembly representing West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Sherman Oaks, and portions of Studio City and Encino. While in the Assembly, he chaired the Select Committee on California's Middle Class, the Labor Committee, and the Revenue and Taxation Committee. He was the author of numerous pieces of legislation including California's eight-hour day law, legislation to encourage high-paying technological employment by curtailing sales taxes on capital investment, and a host of other matters. He is well known for his aggressive advocacy of the rapid completion of planned, but unexecuted, freeway expansions and for ending the disruptive and unnecessary telephone area code proliferation of the late 1990s. After serving in the Assembly, he obtained a Masters Degree in Sociology at UCLA studying the American middle class.

A graduate of Harvard University and Hastings College of the Law, and an Army Vietnam veteran, he is married to Elizabeth Garfield, an attorney and former President of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. He has two daughters, Aviva and Tamara, both of whom learned from their father how to build a fire in the wilderness with only one match.



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Lucetta "Lucy" Dunn

*President and CEO
Orange County Business Council*

Lucetta "Lucy" Dunn is president and CEO of the Orange County Business Council. OCBC serves its business investors and the Orange County community in leadership and advocacy to enhance the County's economic development and quality of life through its efforts to increase workforce housing, improve workforce development and maintain adequate infrastructure. In her first year at OCBC, she hosted a visit from President George W. Bush and helped lead a major successful campaign by the business community to Renew Measure M, funding the next 30 years of transportation improvements for Orange County.

Before joining the Business Council, Ms. Dunn was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and confirmed by the California State Senate in 2004 to serve as Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Her position included oversight for administering the state's housing law, finance, and rehabilitation and community development programs. In the private sector, she served as Executive Vice President of Hearthside Homes, a division of California Coastal Communities, one of Southern California's premiere home builders.

Ms. Dunn received the California State Legislature "Woman of the Year 1997" for her civic involvement, influence and participation in public policy task forces. In 2001, she served as the first woman president in the 80-year history of the Building Industry Association of Southern California and was slated to be president of the California Building Industry Association when Governor Schwarzenegger appointed her to his team. In 2005, she received CBIA's "D. Gregg Brown Award" for her work advocating housing and homeownership. The Orange County Business Journal honored Ms. Dunn with its 2006 "Women in Business" award which recognized five out of 150 nominees for distinguished careers in business.

Ms. Dunn is also an attorney admitted to practice before the California State Bar, the federal bar and the U.S. Supreme Court. She has also been a director and member of a number of non-profit organizations including the Building Industry Legal Defense Foundation, Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation and the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.

She is the mother of two sons and resides in Coto de Caza.



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Lisa M. Grobar

*Professor, Economics at California State University, Long Beach
Director of the CSULB Economic Forecast Project*

Lisa M. Grobar is a Professor of Economics at California State University, Long Beach, and serves as Director of the CSULB Economic Forecast Project. Dr. Grobar received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She is a regional economist with a specialization in the California economy. Her professional writings have appeared in a wide variety of scholarly journals as well as numerous other publications. Dr. Grobar is recognized as an expert on the Southern California economy and is frequently quoted in the national and regional media concerning regional economic trends. She has served as a consultant to cities, regional economic partnerships, and development firms.



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James Flanigan

Business Columnist for the New York Times

Former Business Columnist for the Los Angeles Times

James Flanigan, business columnist for the New York Times and other publications, has covered national and international business and economics for 44 years. He has focused on every aspect of business and finance and examined in major articles the economies of countries stretching from Europe to Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

For 20 years, he wrote a column in the business section of the Los Angeles Times. He now writes for the New York Times and has a book soon to be published on Southern California's vibrant business climate and its relation to the global economy.

Flanigan started as a financial journalist at the New York Herald Tribune in 1963--having joined that paper seven years earlier while attending college. During 17 years with Forbes Magazine, he served as bureau chief in Washington, Los Angeles, London and Houston and later in New York as assistant managing editor. His journalism has won numerous awards.

Flanigan, who was born in New York City, is a history and English graduate of Manhattan College. He and his wife Patricia have five adult children and an assortment of exuberant grandchildren.



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